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The Atlantic World and Global Trade

- Before mercantilism, there was inter-continental trade. In England, foreign ships were used for trade in England.
- In the year 1651, monarch Oliver Cromwell passed the Navigation Acts, which required English goods to be transported on English ships. This restored the English monarchy, leading to political change. With the discovery of the Americas, triangle trade was founded between Europe, the Americas, and Africa. A social change that occurred due to this was that more jobs opened up due to European industrialization. Another political effect was that more English men were trained on sea, which helped to increase England's naval power.
- After the Navigation Acts were passed, then Britain took control of Dutch trade holdings, as Dutch ships were no longer used to transport English goods.
- In the year 1701, French King Louis XIV accepted the Spanish crown. This would lead to the unification of France and Spain, which endangered the surrounding European countries, and they also felt threatened that France and Spain would take their landholdings in the Americas. This led to the War of Spanish Succession.
- The Peace of Utrecht, passed in the year 1713, granted England, France and Spain landholdings in the Americas. This was a political factor that occurred due to the wars. This treaty also increased England's trade, and made them very wealthy.
- In the year 1740, The War of Austrian Succession occurred due to Prussia's control over Austria. Neighboring European countries and Britain felt threatened, they thought that Prussia would take their American landholdings.
- In the year 1748, The war of Austrian Succession was over, and Britain had won. Poland was divided up between Britain, Austria, France, and Russia. Poland was primarily a farming country, so this led to an increase in trade between countries.
- In the 16th century, Portugal controlled the African slave trade. Portugal is a coastal country, which made it easier to travel to the West coast of Africa.
- Europeans thought themselves superior than other countries, and thought African people were barbaric. Immanuel Kant wrote "On the Different Races of Man," justifying slavery. Later, in the late 18th century, Olaudah Equiano wrote "Economic Argument for Ending Slavery," which led to a social movement in England to end slavery.